

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR,

SUBJECT: US COOPERATION/ASSISTANCE IN SELECTIVE DRUG ABUSE
PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 254205

1. IN COMPLIANCE WITH INSTRUCTION IN PARA 3 REFTTEL, AN ASSESSMENT OF VENEZUELA'S EXISTING DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION RESOURCES WAS MADE DURING DECEMBER 1974. THE FOLLOWING VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS WERE INTERVIEWED: DR. GILBERTO CARRERO, DIRECTOR OF THE INTERMINISTERIAL COMMISSION AGAINST DRUG ABUSE (CCUID). DR. JOSE MANUEL VALLS, DIRECTOR OF AVILUZ (AMOR-VIDA-LUZ), MINISTRY OF HEALTH. DRA. ROBERTA FLEISCHMAN, DIRECTOR OF CENTRO DE EDUCACION Y EXTENSION (EDEX). DR. OTTO ARISTEGUIETA, DIRECTOR OF CENTRO DE EDUCACION DEL HOMBRE (CENEDHOM). ALSO CONSULTED WERE DR. SAMUEL OLSON OF THE CENTER VIDA NUEVA AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CCUID.

2. FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCES:

A) VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

1) INTERMINISTERIAL COMMISSION AGAINST DRUG ABUSE (CCUID), ESTABLISHED MARCH 1972 (DIRECTOR, DR. GILBERTO CARRERO, SOCIOLOGIST). THE CCUID FUNCTIONS UNDER THE FISCALIA GENERAL (ATTORNEY GENERAL) WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR, JUSTICE, DEFENSE, HEALTH, EDUCATION AND THE OFFICE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COORDINATION AND PLANNING (CORDIPLAN). THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

OF THE CCUID ARE "RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIRECTED TO ALL AREAS OF THE DRUG PROBLEM, INCLUDING TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION". IT HAS A PERMANENT STAFF OF EIGHT AND A BUDGET TO COVER PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. THE STAFF AND REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDE PROFESSIONALS FROM ALL FIELDS BUT NOT NECESSARILY SPECIALIZED IN THE FIELD OF TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF NARCOTICS USERS. THE CCUID HAS ADEQUATE GOVERNMENT-FURNISHED OFFICES AND A VERY LIMITED LIBRARY.

2) FUNDACION PARA EDUCACION Y EXTENSION (FEDEX). ESTABLISHED 1972, FEDEX IS PRESIDED BY DR. ROMULO LANDER, A PSYCHIATRIST WHO ALSO PRESIDES OVER ONE OF THREE CENTERS UNDER THE INSTITUTION. IT HAS A SEVEN MEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND HAS AN ANNUAL BUDGET OF BF. 540,000 (\$126,168). IT ALSO HAS INCOME FROM FEES CHARGED FOR SERVICES TO PRIVATE CITIZENS. THE OBJECTIVES OF FEDEX ARE "TO PROVIDE PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION, PREVENTION, AND REHABILITATION". IT HAS A LIMITED LIBRARY AND LIMITED EQUIPMENT. FEDEX OPERATES THREE CENTERS:

(A) CENTRO DE TRATAMIENTO ACELERADO (CETRAC). ESTABLISHED 1972. (DIRECTOR, DR. RAFAEL EDUARDO LOPEZ, PSYCHIATRIST). PROVIDES SHORT-TERM TREATMENT TO ADOLESCENTS.

(B) CENTRO DE TERAPIAS DE GRUPO (CENTEGRUPO). ESTABLISHED 1973. (DIRECTOR, DR. ROMULO LANDER, PSYCHIATRIST). ITS OBJECTIVES ARE : (I) TO PROMOTE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO ADOLESCENTS, ADULTS, AND FAMILIES WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE THERAPEUTIC PROCESS; (II) PREPARATION AND TRAINING OF FUTURE THERAPISTS, ASSISTANTS, AND GROUP CO-LEADERS.

(C) CENTRO DE EDUCACION Y EXTENSION (EDEX). ESTABLISHED 1972. (DIRECTOR, DR. ROBERTA FLEISCHMAN, PSYCHOLOGIST). HAS THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES: (I) TO PREPARE AND TRAIN PERSONNEL TO DEVELOP PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMS OF MENTAL HEALTH RELATED TO DRUG ABUSE AND FOR GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; (II) ADULT AND FAMILY TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY WORK; (III) TO DEVELOP PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

3) AVILUZ (AMOR-VIDA-LUZ). ESTABLISHED 1972. THIS AGENCY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FUNCTIONS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR. JOSE MANUEL VALLS, A PSYCHIATRIST. IT OPERATES A CLINIC IN THE GOVERNMENT-OPERATED PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL IN CARACAS.. AVILUZ IS INVOLVED IN TREATMENT, EDUCATION PROGRAMS, REHABILITATION PROGRAMS, AND INFORMATION DELIVERY BY MEANS OF TV AND OTHER MEDIA. THERE IS NO PERMANENT FULL-TIME STAFF IN AVILUZ. HOWEVER, 14 OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S PERMANENT STAFF CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS ON A DAILY BASIS AND, FOR PURPOSES OF THE AGENCY, ARE

CONSIDERED PERMANENT AVILUZ STAFF. IN ADDITION TO A PERMANENT MONTHLY OPERATING BUDGET, AVILUZ RECEIVES FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM PRIVATE FUNDS RAISED BY THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF AVILUZ (SAVILUZ). THE CENTER HAS A LIMITED CAPABILITY FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND CAPACITY FOR 30 IN-PATIENTS. THE EQUIPMENT AND LIBRARY OF THE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL ARE AT ITS DISPOSAL.

B) NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS:

1) CENTRO DE EDUCATION DEL HOMBRE (CENEDHOM). ESTABLISHED 1973, CENEDHOM IS A PRIVATE INSTITUTION OPERATED BY DR. OTTO ARISTEGUIETA, A PSYCHIATRIST. IT IS PATTERNED AFTER SYNANON (CALIFORNIA), AND ITS OBJECTIVES COVER ALL OF THOSE COVERED BY FEDEX, PARA 2.A(2) ABOVE. IT HAS A CAPACITY FOR 30 IN-PATIENTS AND 10-15 OUT-PATIENTS. DR. ARISTEGUIETA HAS AN AMPLE PERSONAL LIBRARY. DR. ARISTEGUIETA HAS DRAFTED A DETAILED PAPER CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION, OBJECTIVES, AND OPERATION OF CENEDHOM BUT WOULD NOT MAKE IT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME BECAUSE HE INTENDS TO HAVE IT PUBLISHED EARLY NEXT YEAR.

2) VIDA NUEVA (NEW LIFE). ESTABLISHED 1973. (DIRECTOR, DR. SAMUEL OLSON, SOCIOLOGIST). THIS CENTER IS OPERATED BY A ROMAN CATHOLIC-ORIENTED STAFF, AND ALL ITS ACTIVITIES ARE RELIGIOUSLY INCLINED. ITS OBJECTIVES ARE THE SAME AS FEDEX AND CENEDHOM'S. ACCORDING TO DR. OLSON, HE MAY BE FORCED TO CLOSE BY MID-1975 DUE TO LACK OF INCOME.

3) TWO OTHER CENTERS WERE OPENED IN 1973-74 WITH LITTLE SUCCESS. THESE ARE NIRGUA IN YARACUY STATE AND QUINTA NAVILETE IN CARACAS. BOTH ARE STILL OPERATING TO A LIMITED EXTENT BUT APPARENTLY DO NOT HAVE PERMANENT PROGRAMS.

3. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS TO THE TYPES OF DRUG ABUSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREVENTION ACTIVITIES BEING CARRIED ON IN VENEZUELA IS KEYED TO THE HEADINGS IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL.

A) TREATMENT: PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE MEDICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR SOCIAL TREATMENT ARE INCLUDED IN FEDEX'S, AVILUZ'S AND CENEDHOM'S OBJECTIVES.

B) REHABILITATION: EFFORTS SEEM TO BE LIMITED TO RELOCATING DRUG USERS IN A NEW LIFE STYLE BUT NOT NECESSARILY IN EMPLOYMENT.

C) EDUCATION: PROGRAMS FOR EXISTING SCHOOL SYSTEMS, TRAINING OF TEACHERS, COUNSELORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS ARE BEING CARRIED ON BY EDEX.

D) TRAINING: ACTIVITIES TO TRAIN PEOPLE TO IMPLEMENT

PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS ARE BEING CARRIED ON BY EDEX.

E) PREVENTION: PROGRAMS OF EARLY INTERVENTION ARE, TO SOME EXTENT, BEING CARRIED OUT BY EDEX AND CENEDHOM.

4. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION OR STATISTICS REGARDING THE DRUG PROBLEM OR THE EFFECTS OF VARIOUS TREATMENT METHODS ON THE TRADITIONAL DRUG USE IN VENEZUELA UNFORTUNATELY DO NOT EXIST. INTERVIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS INDICATE THAT THE EFFORTS OF THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS ARE GEARED TOWARD MARIHUANA USERS AND RELATED EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS. ACCORDING TO THE PERSONS INTERVIEWED, INCIDENCE OF HARD DRUG ADDICTION IS ALMOST NIL. INCIDENCE OF COCAINE USAGE IS ON THE INCREASE BUT NO STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE.

5. THE DIRECTOR OF THE CCUID STATES THAT THE CCUID HAS UNDERTAKEN THE TASK OF CONDUCTING AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE OVERALL DRUG SCENE WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY 1975. AT THAT TIME MORE COMPREHENSIVE DATA CONCERNING VENEZUELA'S DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES SHOULD BECOME AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY.

6. THOSE PERSONS MANAGING PROGRAMS OR CENTERS ARE TRAINED AND CAPABLE PROFESSIONALS, HOWEVER, BY THEIR OWN STATEMENTS AND ADMISSIONS, THEY ARE LACKING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN THE OVERALL AREA OF NARCOTICS.
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7. BECAUSE OF THE EXISTING SITUATION REGARDING TREATMENT/ REHABILITATION, LACK OF EVIDENCE REGARDING AN ADDICTION PROBLEM TO HARD DRUGS, AND THE PENDING STUDY BY CCUID, THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES BY THE U.S. AS SUGGESTED REFTEL ARE NOT REQUIRED BY VENEZUELA AT THIS TIME, AND HENCE THE EMBASSY HAS NO RECOMMENDATION AT THIS TIME FOR SUCH A PREVENTION PROGRAM.

8. THE EMBASSY WILL WISH TO RECONSIDER THIS VIEW WHEN THE CCUID STUDY IS COMPLETED.
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Message Attributes

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